

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0733

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2528

E.O. 11652GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MASS, PFOR, EC, US

REF: STATE 75380

1. IN PREPARING FOR PLANNED MEETING BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF US TUNA INTERESTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN EXPLANATION OF OUR INTENTION TO MAKE SHIPS AND TRAINING AVAILABLE TO THE ECUADOREAN NAVY.

2. FIRST, AMONG THE PURPOSES IN LIFTING SANCTIONS WAS TO SEEK TO MITIGATE HARMFUL EFFECTS FISHING DISPUTE WAS HAVING ON OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR. THERE HAD BEEN NO MILITARY SALES FOR THREE YEARS AND GOE WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK SERIOUSLY ELSEWHERE FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND SUPPLIES WHEREAS WE HAD ONCE BEEN THE NATION'S PRINCIPAL MILITARY PARTNER. MOREOVER, INITIATION OF OIL EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1972, NOW REACHING LEVEL OF 220 THOUSAND BPD, VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHICH IS TEXACO-GULF PRODUCTION, REPRESENTS NEW UNITED STATES INTEREST HERE WHICH LOOMS MUCH LARGER THAN IT DID WHEN SANCTIONS FIRST IMPOSED.

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3. SECOND, PROVIDING EQUIPMENT TO ANY RPT ANY BRANCH OF

GOE MILITARY IS NOT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR LOS OR FISHING INTERESTS. THE GOE IS A MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND WE CANNOT VIEW OUR RELATIONS WITH IT IN DISTINCT AND ISOLATED PARTS. SELLING GOE MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS LIKELY TO MOVE OUR RELATIONS AHEAD ON ALL FRONTS, INCLUDING THE SEARCH FOR AN ACCOMMODATION ON THE FISHING ISSUE. MOREOVER, ONCE THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP IS RESTORED, THE GOE WILL HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN MAINTAINING IT AND HENCE IN AVOIDING INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE IT.

4. FINALLY, IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN ONE BRANCH OF THE SERVICE AND ANOTHER. WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE GOE WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL THEM F-5'S, A-37'S AND T-33'S AND AN AIR FORCE STUDY TEAM IS IN QUITO NOW TO EXPLORE THE MATTER IN DETAIL. WHY SHOULD WE SINGLE OUT THE NAVY SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS THE SERVICE SELECTED TO ENFORCE ECUADOR'S NATIONAL POLICY IN RESPECT TO FISHING? WE KNOW THAT ANYTHING WE SELL ECUADOR WILL NOT ENHANCE ITS CAPACITY TO APPREHEND FISHING BOATS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT OF ALL THE ECUADOREAN SERVICES, THE NAVY IS MOST INFLUENTIAL IN LOS, FISHING AND PETROLEUM POLICY. GIVEN NAVY SENSITIVITIES AND INFLUENCE HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT TO DENY THAT SERVICE OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD BE TO PROVOKE PRECISELY THE KIND OF HARD-NOSE REACTION WE DON'T WANT, WITH POTENTIALLY ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR MORE THAN JUST OUR FISHING INTERESTS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE PROCEED WITH THE PLANNED SALES TO GOE NAVY, OUR ACCESS TO AND INFLUENCE WITH PRESENT AND FUTURE NAVY POLICY MAKERS HERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE SUCH SALES WILL STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE WITHIN THE NAVY WHO MAY BE COUNSELLING RESTRAINT WITH REGARD TO SEIZURES OF OUR FISHING BOATS. IT CANNOT HAVE ESCAPED SAN DIEGO'S NOTICE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SEIZURES FOR MORE THAN FOURTEEN MONTHS.

BREWSTER

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